

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 W
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R 141449Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4978

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PO, US

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF NPW PORT VISITS TO LISBON

REF STATE 265719

1. THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT HERE IS PRESENTLY SUCH THAT A VISIT OF A NUCLEAR VESSEL COULD BE SEIZED UPON BY COMMUNISTS AND RADICAL LEFT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THOSE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT WE ARE SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN. AFTER GAP OF NEARLY A YEAR BETWEEN LAST SSN VISIT AND THAT PROPOSED REFTTEL, WHICH WOULD COME IN MIDST OF SCHEDULED ELECTION PERIOD, STRAIN ON GOP FROM VOCAL LEFTIST OPPOSITION, COULD BE TOO MUCH. RESULT COULD BE TO DEFEAT OBJECT OF CONFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF NPW VISITS, WHICH MIGHT BE IRRECOVERABLE FOR SOME TIME.

2. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF NPW VISIT PRINCIPLE AND OF NORMAL WARSHIP VISITS, AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS NAVY DESIRE TO REESTABLISH PORT VISIT ROUTINE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF INFREQUENCY OF SHIP VISITS OVER PAST YEAR AND PARTICULAR SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SSN VISIT TO CRITICISM, I RECOMMEND STEP BY STEP APPROACH ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. NATO (INCL U.S.) MULTI-SHIP VISIT JAN 76.

B. NON-NUCLEAR U.S. SHIP VISIT FEB-MAR 76.

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C. SSN VISIT APR-MAY 76.

D. ROUTINE (QUARTERLY NON-NUCLEAR SHIP VISITS THEREAFTER
WITH ADDITIONAL NPW VISITS AS REQUESTED AND FEASIBLE.

3. ABOVE APPROACH WILL ENABLE GOP TO OIL SHIP VISIT MACHINERY
AS IT SOLIDIFIES POSITION. NON-AVAILABILITY OF NATO FORCE
FOR JAN 76 VISIT SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE PROCEEDING WITH STEP B.
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Message Attributes

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